

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP2003/014600 filed December 19, 2003**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (new): A chewing gum composition comprising:

- (a) a water-insoluble base component;
- (b) a water-soluble component; and at least one of (c) and (d), wherein,
  - (c) comprises an extract of a plant selected from the group consisting of Ginkgo biloba, Camellia sinensis, Vaccinium myrtillus, Vitis vitifera, Olea europensis, Trifolium pratense, Salix (alba), Harpagophytum procumbens and mixtures thereof and
  - (d) comprises a plant-derived active principle selected from the group consisting of catechols, flavonoids, quercitrins, resveratrols, flavonoid glycosides, isoflavones, isoflavone glycosides, iridoid glycosides, harpagosides, harpagides, proambides, anthocyanosides, salicylates and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as component

- (a) a water-insoluble component selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic elastomers, resins, fats and oils, plasticizers, fillers, softeners, dyes, waxes and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising component (a) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 14 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as component

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(b) a water-soluble component selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising component (b) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 16 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which comprise a membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts and/or the plant-derived active principles and which are produced by a process comprising a process selected from the group consisting of:

(a)

- (a1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, chitosans and active principles,
- (a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
- (a3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution comprising anionic polymers; and
- (a4) optionally removing the oil phase ,

(b)

- (b1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, anionic polymers and active principles,
- (b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
- (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution , and
- (b4) optionally removing the oil phase,

(c)

- (c1) processing an aqueous active principle preparation with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form an o/w emulsion.
- (c2) treating the emulsion obtained with an aqueous solution comprising

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polymers, to form a matrix.,

- (c3) contacting the matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution and
- (c4) removing the encapsulated product, thus obtained, from the aqueous phase.

**Claim 17 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 11 which composition contains component (c) in a quantity of 0.1 to 10% by weight.

**Claim 18 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising:

- (a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,
- (b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and
- (c) 2 to 10% by weight of optionally encapsulated plant extracts and/or their active principles,

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

**Claim 19 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 12 comprising component (a) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

**Claim 20 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 19 comprising as component (b) a water-soluble component selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 21 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 20 comprising component (b) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

**Claim 22 (new):** The composition as claimed in claim 21 comprising as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which comprise a membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts and/or the plant-derived active

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principles and which are produced by a process comprising a process selected from the group consisting of:

- (a)
  - (a1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, chitosans and active principles,
  - (a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
  - (a3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution comprising anionic polymers; and
  - (a4) optionally removing the oil phase ,
- (b)
  - (b1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, anionic polymers and active principles,
  - (b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
  - (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution , and d
  - (b4) optionally removing the oil phase,
- (c)
  - (c1) processing an aqueous active principle preparation with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form an o/w emulsion.
  - (c2) treating the emulsion obtained with an aqueous solution comprising polymers, to form a matrix.,
  - (c3) contacting the matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution and
  - (c4) removing the encapsulated product, thus obtained, from the aqueous phase.

Claim 23 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 22 which composition contains component (c) in a quantity of 0.1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 24 (new): The composition as claimed in claim 23 comprising:

- (a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,

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- (b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and
- (c) 2 to 10% by weight of optionally encapsulated plant extracts and/or their active principles,

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

**Claim 25 (new):** The chewing gum composition of claim 11, wherein, the water-insoluble base component comprises from 10% to 50% by weight of the composition.

**Claim 26 (new):** The chewing gum composition of claim 25, wherein, the water-soluble component comprises from 20% to 80% by weight of the composition.

**Claim 27 (new):** The composition of claim 16, wherein, the microcapsules have a mean diameter of from 0.001 mm to 0.5 mm.

**Claim 28 (new):** The composition of claim 27, wherein, the microcapsules have a mean diameter of from 0.005 mm to 0.1 mm.